

**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday March 12, 2013
North Commons Recreation Center**

Unapproved Minutes

Commissioners Present: Matthew Dobratz, Michael Miller, Ishmael Israel, Denis Houle, Francisco Segovia, Doron Clark, Saciido Shaie

Staff Present: David Rubedor, Lance Knuckles, Howard Blin

Others Present: Abonbacar Camara

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

1. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approve Minutes of November 13, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting

The minutes were discussed but not approved due to a lack of a quorum from that meeting.

3. Blueprint for Equity

Rubedor explained that the Blueprint for Equity is aimed at having neighborhood organizations use their funding, social capital and political capital to address racial disparities. He described a proposal to rescope the Blueprint for Equity effort. The initial strategy was to follow the model used for the Community Participation Program, which involved meeting with most neighborhood organizations and asking a series of standard questions. This has proved to overtax the capacity of the staff and NCEC.

A new approach is proposed which aligns the Blueprint for Equity with work underway with the Racial Equity Toolkit, the joint meeting with the City Council's Health, Environmental and Community Engagement Committee (HECE) and other efforts.

Knuckles described the Commitment to Equity Statement, noting that it was developed by the City's department heads.

Comments from commissioners and staff included:

- To be better informed on racial disparities, it would be helpful be provided reports with empirical data.
- Over the next few weeks, the Commission could conduct an online discussion on the issues.

- Discussion on a joint meeting with the HECE have focused on ensuring an equitable engagement process, that neighborhood organizations, City departments, etc. are doing their work in an equitable fashion.
- Any commitment statement from the NCEC should focus on the work of the Commission.
- The suggestion to focus the NCEC's efforts on the Blueprint is appreciated. Previously the effort was too broad.
- The NCEC's Boards and Commissions Diversity report should be distributed to the new Council members.
- We speak of diversity being the same as equity. We open the door but people not entering. Economic equity is another factor, such as when meetings are held. We on the Commission can take off work early to attend meetings, but many cannot.
- There should be three aspects to the City's community engagement efforts: getting more representative boards and commissions, how departments do engagement, and how neighborhood organizations do engagement.
- The City Department Engagement Task Force is looking beyond merely how departments do outreach and will provide evaluations of engagement practices. These could become part of a departments Results Minneapolis report.

4. Joint Meeting of NCEC and HECE

It was reported by Commissioners Israel and Segovia that a workgroup including NCEC members and Councilmembers Gordon and Cano are trying to frame what the meetings should be about. It was discussed that the Organizing for Equity group is proposing a City Commission to review the progress on the Racial Equity Toolkit.

5. Community Innovation Fund

Due to lack of time, it was determined that the discussion should be continued to the March 25 NCEC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by Howard Blin